

FIREFIGHTER

Pensions Special 11th January 2006

DEFEND YOUR PENSIONS

The Executive Council will meet on the 13th January to discuss the pension crisis. The Executive Council will consider an imminent Recall Conference in line with the last paragraph of Conference 2005 Emergency Resolution number 2 – PENSIONS

"Conference agrees that the Executive Council engages in serious discussions and negotiations with the government to protect and improve FBU members pensions. Members will be kept informed of those negotiations and if there are detrimental changes proposed at the outcome of negotiations Conference will be recalled."

The FBU has to date organised a campaign which has included a national lobby of parliament, regional open forums, Regional and Brigade Committee meetings, regular articles in the 'FireFighter' magazine which have been supplemented with 'FireFighter Pension Specials' and Head Office Circulars.

Throughout this time the FBU, along with other

public sector unions have been engaged in consultation and face to face negotiations with the ODPM. We have also made formal submissions on both the Firefighters Pension Scheme (FPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

However, in spite of the efforts of the FBU and other public sector unions, it is clear the ODPM fully intends to



HANDS OFF OUR PENSIONS!



drive through its detrimental changes to the FPS and LGPS, and the introduction of lesser schemes for new entrants to both schemes. The talks are nearing completion, but the ODPM has made it clear that they have no intention of negotiating on their stated changes on normal retirement age, and unlike other public sector workers and the police, there is not even the offer of ring fencing for existing members.

The General Secretary is extremely concerned that there appears to have been no progress whatsoever with the ODPM at the Firefighters Pension Committee (FPC) on the major controversial proposals affecting existing members so he has written to the Minister Phil Woolas MP seeking an urgent meeting.



General Secretary Matt Wrack says.



"When we have raised concerns about these matters at the FPC it appears from their answers that they have no intention to discuss these issues with the FBU in any forum. It appears that the ODPM's intention is to treat Firefighters and Firefighters (Control) considerably worse than other public sector workers."

What you must do:

Branches must meet now. Make your views heard. Your Brigade Officials will need your mandate when the Recall Conference takes place. We must work alongside and campaign with other public sector unions to fight the attacks on all our members pensions. Continue to lobby your MP.

Assistant General Secretary Andy Dark said:



"FBU members pay 11% of their gross pay. Our members give years of dedicated public service to protect the people of this country. They do not deserve to find that the pensions which they have paid for are changed and to be told that they have to work more years before they can retire."

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